

Message Text

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FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, LE

SUBJECT: VATICAN APPEALS FOR LEBANON

1. IN AFTERMATH OF FALL OF TAL EL ZAATAR TO CHRISTIANS, VATICAN ORGAN L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO IN EDITORIALS AUG. 14 AND 15, HAS VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED ATROCITIES AND HAS APPEALED FOR DETERMINED

EFFORT TO REACH "FAIR AND BENEFICIAL SOLUTIONS". POPE PAUL AUGUST 15 APPEALS FOR END TO TRAGEDY.

2. AUGUST 14 EDITORIAL STATES: " THE GRAVE, FRIGHTENING NEWS COMING FROM BEIRUT, AFTER THE SURRENDER OF THE TAL ED ZAATAR
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CAMP, STRIKE AND DISMAY. EVEN IF NOT ALL THE VERSIONS OF THE FACTS

ARE VERIFIABLE...IT IS DUTIFUL TO SAY... THERE MUST EMERGE AND PREVAIL, WITH IMMEDIATE PRIORITY, A SENSE OF PITY AND HUMANITY." JUSTICE AND CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIRE "THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL NORMS FOR PRISONERS AND REFUGEES AND EMERGENCY AID TO THE PEOPLE." IT THEN RECALLS POPE PAUL'S APPEAL OF AUGUST 1 FOR ALLOWING ASSISTANCE TO "SIEGED GROUPS" AND REGRETS THAT THE APPEAL WAS NOT HEEDDED. IT FINALLY RENEWS THE APPEAL TO ALL, BUT PUTS EMPHASIS ON CHRISTIANS.

3. AUGUST 15 EDITORIAL, "OUR HOPE," AFTER CALLING ON LEBANESE TO RESPECT "LAW OF WAR" AND AVOID ATROCITIES, STATES VATICAN'S HOPE THAT "HUMANITY AND WISDOM PREVAIL OVER PASSION, TO PERMIT UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH WILL ALLOW THE SONS OF LEBANON AND THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION, WHICH HAS FOUND HOSPITALITY THERE, TO HEAL THE WOUNDS AND LACERATIONS OF CONFLICT ALREADY TOO DRAWN OUT AND TO FIND THE WAY TO FAIR AND BENEFICIAL SOLUTIONS."

4. COMMENT: VATICAN HAS BEEN GENUINELY SHOCKED BY ATROCITIES WHICH, ACCORDING TO WESTERN PRESS REPORTS, WERE PERPETRATED BY CHRISTIANS DURING SIEGE OF TAL EL ZAATAR. THESE TWO EDITORIALS AND POPE PAUL'S PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF LEBANESE VIOLENCE SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, DISPLAY MORAL INDIGNATION AT CHRISTIAN (MARONITE) BEHAVIOR. ON POLITICAL PLANE, VATICAN, WHICH TRIED UNSECCESFULLY THROUGH TWO SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO MEDIATE LEBANESE DISPUTE, HOPES TO DEFLECT COMBATTANTS FROM ENGAGING IN FURTHER RUTHLESS VENDETTAS. IT ALSO HOPES FOR A QUICK RESUMPTION OF "UNDERSTANDINGS" AMONG THE PARTIES BEFORE LEFTIST MILITANTS GET FURTHER INFUSIONS OF ASSISTANCE AND TROOP REINFORCEMENTS FROM NON-MODERATE ARAB STATES SUCH AS IRAQ AND LIBYA.VOLPE

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